

JOSIAH BAYLY'S LAW OFFICE - 211 High St.

This small building was originally the law office of the Hon. Josiah Bayly, who acquired the property from Christ Church in 1796. Bayly was the ^{Fifth}~~first~~ Attorney General of Maryland. He was also the lawyer for Patty Cannon who was involved with stealing and selling slaves, and charged with several murders. This building is still in use as a law office and has undergone relatively little alteration. It is a one story frame structure with a gable roof and external chimney on the north facade. The wood siding has beading along the lower edge. It is significant as one of the earliest surviving office buildings in Cambridge.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| 1. NAME | | | | |
| COMMON: | | | | |
| AND/OR HISTORIC: | | | | |
| 2. LOCATION | | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: 211 High Street | | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge | | | | |
| STATE Maryland | | COUNTY: Dorchester | | |
| 3. CLASSIFICATION | | | | |
| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) law office | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments |
| 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY | | | | |
| OWNER'S NAME: Reginald Orem | | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: 209 High Street | | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge | | STATE: Maryland | | 21613 |
| 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION | | | | |
| COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Dorchester County Courthouse | | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: 206 High Street | | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge | | STATE: Maryland | | 21613 |
| Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): Liber 117/Folio 283 | | | | |
| 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS | | | | |
| TITLE OF SURVEY: | | | | |
| DATE OF SURVEY: | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local | | | | |
| DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: | | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: | | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: | | STATE: | | |

| 7. DESCRIPTION | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | (Check One) |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site |
| DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE | | | |
| <p>This building, still in use as a law office, has changed little since 1796. It is a small one story frame building with a chimney on the north facade and a gable roof. Originally it was a one room building, but another room has been added to the rear in salt-box fashion. On the front is a single door and a window, although neither is the original. The wood siding has beading along the lower edge.</p> | | | |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☒ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

History:

This small building was originally the law office of the Hon. Josiah Bayly, who acquired the property from Christ Church in 1796. Bayly was born in Somerset County, Maryland, in 1769 and died in Cambridge, August 15, 1846. He is buried in Christ Church cemetery. In 1790, he moved to Cambridge and became the tutor of Congressman Scott's daughters, with the agreement that in return he should have board, the use of Scott's law books, and would succeed him in practice. (Scott's house, built in 1828, was later called the Old Straughn Property or the Old Dorchester House. It is no longer standing today.)

Mr. Bayly practiced law in Cambridge and was later distinguished as the fifth Attorney General of Maryland. Mr. Bayly was the lawyer for Patty Cannon, who was involved with stealing and selling of slaves, and was charged with several murders.

Significance:

This is the earliest surviving office building in Cambridge, that remains basically unaltered. It contributes to the historic character of High Street which possesses many buildings of architectural significance ranging from Pre-Revolutionary War to early 20th century construction.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | O R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | |
| | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | |
| NW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | ° ' " | ° ' " | |
| NE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | ° ' " | ° ' " | |
| SE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | ° ' " | ° ' " | |
| SW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | ° ' " | ° ' " | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE

12.

State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature _____

213 High Street (Correct the address from 211 to 213 High Street
Cambridge, Maryland PLC 117/283

This building served as the law office of Josiah Bayly (see 209 High Street) and dates from sometime after 1799. The land originally belonged to Great Choptank Parish and was part of that portion leased to John Caile in 1750. In 1796, the Vestry sold part of its land, including this lot, to raise money to build a new church. Rev. James Kemp, then rector of the parish and later Episcopal Bishop of Baltimore, purchased the lot. In 1799 he sold the land to Josiah Bayly and Bayly erected the office sometime afterward. The front part appears to have been built first, with the rear portion added as the need arose. After Josiah Bayly's death in 1846 the office passed to his widow and then to his son, Dr. Alexander Hamilton Bayly. Dr. Bayly rented the office to other local attorneys during the Nineteenth Century. The property has been in the possession of the Bayly family and their descendants to this day, with the exception of a few years at the beginning of the Twentieth Century. Currently the building serves as the office of Attorney Conrad L. McCulley, who has made some needed repairs during his stay.

This little building, nestled as it is against the old graveyard wall, adds a certain charm and quaintness to this end of High Street. It is a good example of strictly utilitarian construction of the late Eighteenth Century. When it was built there was probably little thought given to its style or to the possibility that it might last for almost two centuries. This building, however, has a weak foundation and is in danger of falling apart. The rear portion has already started to sink.

Sources:

Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.
Land Records. Will Records. Interview with Reginald and Hazel
Orem, 209, High Street, owners. Research: Terrance P. Walbert 1976



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Johnnie L. Lee
211 1/2 1st St. N.E.
Atlanta, Ga.

Chambersburg

Pa. 17001

1971